



IN THE

DARC



<http://www.w5fc.org>

Tom General KE5ICX, Editor May 2009

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dallas RACES Training Net - Sunday May 3
146.88 MHz 8:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Everyone is invited to listen, but only RACES
appointed stations are permitted to participate.

DARC Club Meeting - Tuesday May 5
Burger House (Informal Meet Up) Dinner 6:00 PM
Brookhaven Church Business 7:00 PM

DARC Board Meeting - Tuesday May 5
Brookhaven Church 8:30 PM

DARC Meeting on the Air - Sunday May 3 and 17
146.88 MHz 7:00 PM - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Now available through Echolink Node 37247 or as
W5FC-R

DARC board meetings are open to anyone who
wishes to attend, visit, and observe.

NTS DFW Early Traffic Net - Every Day
146.88 MHz 6:30 PM - every evening
All hams are invited to this traffic and training net.



Dallas Field Day 2009 Excitement, Fun and Free Food!

by Randy Patterson KE5JIT@ARRL.NET

Think Dallas Field Day!
Think Excitement!
Think Fun!
Think Food and Lots of It!

That is what you have rolled into one event when you come and attend the **Dallas Field Day!** This is a joint field day of the *Dallas Amateur Radio Club* and *Dallas County REACT*. Its purpose is to support the Field Day 2009 operation at Flagpole Hill. Field Day is always the last full weekend in June.

Field Day actually starts on the air at 1:00pm Saturday, June 27th, and ends 1:00pm Sunday, June 28th, this year. Our activities will start on Friday afternoon. We will begin gathering

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
PO Box 744266 Dallas, TX 75374

2009 DARC Officers and Directors:

President	Randy Patterson KE5JIT
Vice-President	David Best KD5RYM
Treasurer	Bob Kelly KE5PHX
Secretary	Scott Drummond KE5DKV
Director 1	Karl Borchardt KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman May KE5HYW
Director 3	James Shugart N5BKL
Director 4	Tom General KE5ICX
Director 5	Kevin Harkins W5DJK
Director 6	Scott Clark N1SAC

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, Inc., founded in 1914, is an ARRL-affiliated Special Service Club, and is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. Your donations to the DARC qualify for tax exemption.

Club meetings are always open to anyone interested in amateur radio. To contact us email: info@w5fc.org.

Our repeater Trustee is Johnny Davis K5JD. Our repeaters are located in the city of Dallas and are available for the use of all licensed amateur radio operators, subject to the repeater guidelines set forth in the official DARC website, w5fc.org.

The repeater auto-patch is for the use of DARC members only. Any club member may obtain the patch code and instructions by contacting the Secretary at secretary@w5fc.org. Also contact him if you have lost your membership roster password.

DARC REPEATERS:

2m	146.880 out	146.280 in
	110.0/110.9	
1.25m	224.880 out	223.280 in
	110.9/110.9	
70cm	442.425 out	447.425 in
	110.9/110.9	

Cover Photo: Scott KE5DKV and Tom KE5ICX work on the antenna array on top of the new DARC trailer. Come see our work at the DARC May 5th General Meeting.

Your letters to the editor or articles for *In the DARC* are welcomed. They may be edited for length or style, and they may or may not be published. The DARC accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the contents of this newsletter. Reproduction is permitted provided that this newsletter and the original source are credited.

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around 3:00 p.m. to start taking over our area and setting up, and even get in some late night "rag chewing".

We will cap off Friday evening with a Spaghetti dinner, compliments of your DARC President Randy KE5JIT. He thinks he might even get Dallas REACT President Terry KC5BHR involved in the festivities.

We are requesting and hoping that we have a great turn out for families or individuals who are able and would like to spend the weekend camping out with us. Also remember this is a City of Dallas Park and no alcoholic beverages are permitted. We had several folks that camped with us last year and had a great time.



**Field Day 2008. Join us for another weekend of fun!
(Oh - and food!)**

We will start Saturday morning out early completing set up and being ready to CQ CQ CQ CQ, "Whiskey 5 Fried Chicken" at 1:00 p.m! We will be operating 3C with a GOTA station.

For those in attendance, DARC and Dallas REACT will provide a free meal Friday and Saturday evening, June 26 and June 27, 2008.

The menu will consist of smoked brisket, smoked sausage, potato salad, slaw, baked beans and the trimmings (subject to change-final planning not complete at time of writing). Who knows, we might even have dessert?

Food will be served until it runs out! It is a "first-come first-served event".

After a busy day of operating Field Day, the meal will be served at approximately 6:30 PM on Saturday.

For all members of DARC and Dallas REACT, and any visitors (visitors are more than welcome), we would like to have you join us for the fun, the educational opportunity, and plentiful FOOD! See you there and bring your appetite, you will need it.

73's

Randy Patterson – President DARC
Terry Allen – President Dallas REACT

“Join us at Field Day 2009! Expect lots of radio fun, food, and comradeship!”

A Visit to Paris, TX!



Randy KE5JIT, standing in front of the Paris, TX Eiffel Tower.

by Tom General KE5ICX@ARRL.NET

Randy KE5JIT and Tom KE5ICX headed up to Paris, TX on an impromptu visit to Randy's home town. Of course, we both had an opportunity to “hang” with *Paris Texas Amateur Radio* club net control for the KC5OOS Wednesday Night Net. Richard Lenoir KI5DX, who has checked in both on our repeater and via Echolink on the DARC MOTA net. He also runs this very popular net in Paris.



Richard KI5DX conducts the Paris Amateur Radio Club Net from his well appointed ham station. Randy KE5JIT looks on jealously!

The Paris net sees a popular checkin, usually 30 or more local residents, and about ½ dozen Echolink check-ins, some from as far away as Indonesia. As you can tell from the picture here, Richard runs a very nice station with all bands covered. You can see he's not only a dedicated net control, but he's also very much into our hobby. He even has two other hams who live just up the street from him. I think the neighbors are getting scared.

You can see more pictures from the Paris, TX trip at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ke5icx/FieldTripToParisTX42409950PM>

You can actually listen to a recording of this particular net via <http://www.archive.org>.

<http://www.archive.org/details/TheParisTxWednesdayNightKc5oos>

The Paris Amateur Radio Club Wednesday Net is available via Echolink at KC5OOS-R. Or, if you have the capability, you can reach them directly via their KC5OOS repeater at:

147.040MHz + PL100.0

President's Corner



by Randy Patterson KE5JIT@arrl.net

We are very close to completing the trailer. We will be doing a dry run with everything working within the first couple weeks of May.

The DARC Communication Center now has DC and generator power. The new generator has finally been installed and ready for action. Our DARC logo decals have been installed, and we are about 95% completed with our challenge.

The trailer will be available for viewing at our May DARC General Meeting.



Scott KE5DKV received the prestigious Whit and Anne Griffith Award at the April General Meeting.

Our plans are to park it in our normal parking place by the middle of May and then we can start planning our monthly events, probably starting with Field Day 2009.

Once again, a HUGE THANK YOU to the members who have worked nearly every weekend for the last seven months to get this project completed.

The DARC Communication Center is something that all club members should be proud of and will serve DARC members faithfully for years to come.

Field Day 2009 is now in the planning. If you would like to send us your ideas and suggestions feel free to drop a note to dallas-field-day-2009@googlegroups.com. We are using members who helped last year and have recruited a few new ones this year. If you would like to be added to the planning committee list, let me know – it will require you to participate. Planning could be preparation leading up to, during, or tear down after the event after Field Day. I would like to encourage everyone to plan on attending.

There is plenty of room to pitch a tent and spend the night. The event will be a family outing, and a good time to get away have a good time communicating with other Ham operators.

This is our second year to join with Dallas REACT for Field Day. So make plans now to attend the DARC DALLAS REACT FIELD DAY 2009 EVENT. We believe it will be bigger and better than 2008!

Don't forget to visit the www.w5fc.org and select on the Ham-com link. This is a way for the DARC to receive some easy money and you don't have to open your wallet in the process.

Thanks go to DARC members and others who support the DARC through the Tom Thumb food program. We received another nice donation this month.

I was not able to attend Belton this year due to commitments on the trailer project, but W5GM Jay reported on our MOTA there was a good turnout, better than he expected with our economy and there were a lot of folks from Dallas in attendance.

It is a great honor to announce the 2009 Recipient of the Whit and Anne Griffith Community Service Award is KE5DKV Scott Drummond. Scott definitely fills the roll model of the requirements for the award.

"I would like to nominate Scott KE5DKV for the Whit and Anne Griffith Award. Scott is actively involved with his family, church, scouts, serves numerous ham radio operators helping them to get around to different functions and even graciously takes these demands/requirements/request over the air. He also has been a dedicated member giving weekly of his time on the DARC trailer. I do not know of a request that Scott has turned down to be of service to his community"

The board unanimously voted to honor Scott with the Whit and Anne Griffith Award and give a Thank You, Scott for the service you have given to all that know you.

If you have not been joining in on the DARC Meeting On The Air (MOTA) the past couple meetings, you have been missing change. We have had echolink running and our sister station in Paris, The Paris Texas Group has linked in to join. This is the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 19:00.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the May General Meeting. The May 5th meeting will have Bob Peters WIPE.

He will be sharing his experiences and pictures in Army communications during the Vietnam Era.

HELP WANTED: Webmaster for the www.w5fc.org website. We are looking for volunteer(s) that can step forward and complete the change over to the new site, monitor for improvements, and utilize their creative energies. This is an appointed position, subject to board approval, so would be through the end of this year.

In conversation with Mike KM5Z, our former webmaster, has agreed to help anyone with any technical questions they might have in regards to the responsibilities.

Mike has done a great job migrating from the old to new look and I appreciated the work he has done in the past.

Mike has held this position for several years and we appreciate his service, and disappointed to see him go but he feels he needs more time to himself.

This can be by one person or a group of people working together - we have proven that can be done within the DARC while working on the trailer - so sure it could be done with the website.

In the meantime, KE5HYW Herman and KE5ICX Tom have agreed to share these duties.

Start thinking and planning for DARC DALLAS REACT FIELD DAY 2009!
73's

KE5JIT Randy Patterson – DARC President
ke5jit@yahoo.com

Silent Key – W5CJZ – Barney Moffatt – Mr. Moffatt joined the DARC in 1999.

73's W5CJZ

By Randy Patterson, KE5JIT@arrl.net

Letters from Len



May 2009

N. T. "Len" Carlson, K4IWL

The past several Letters were about some of the past history of the DARC.

This month I'm going to concentrate on the present for two reasons:

Lots has been going on this month with our new digs here in Sarasota and not enough spare time to research and pull up more historical information from my brain or my historical files ... and in 2 days [April 17] we are leaving for Dover, England on a transatlantic cruise ship and we are frantically packing and getting my two cats prepared for 2-weeks alone.

Well not quite alone [a neighbor will be looking in on them] but with more than enough food, water, and kitty litter to last for more than the 2-weeks. We have done this several times over the past 3 years and aside of being stir crazy and climbing all over us when we get home, they do quite well with the run of the house and

the classical music that plays 24-7 to calm the beast in them.

The move to Sarasota, Florida was not an easy one for me, even though I raised my family on Florida's East coast in the 70's and early eighties, I left the Metroplex after 20½ years in Irving, Dallas, and Plano and 20 years as an active member of the DARC. I held various positions with the club over a 10+ stretch of time. Such positions as Activities Chairman, Program Chairman, Field Day Chairman, Newsletter [shared with Colin N5GG], Vice-President, President, and Director ... to name a few. I still maintain my membership with the DARC and plan to keep that going as long as I'm breathing. I plan to stick around so I can be there to prepare for Y3K.

Getting back to the present, the move to Sarasota has not been easy mainly due to the transition from a 2800 SqFt house in Plano to a 1560 SqFt house here in Sarasota. First I lost my 400 SqFt of shack and workshop in Plano to no room for that here. The solution was to put up a shed in the back yard and after 6-months of planning and preparation it is now a reality. I ordered and, with a helper, assembled a 10'x14' steel shed. I am now framing the inside with studs and walls and building one room for the ham shack and the other space for a small workshop. Here is a photo of what it looks like from the outside.



Len's new shack!

This is where K4IWL will be operating QRP in a month or so as soon as the antennas are up. If you're a CW op you will find me on 7030 or 14060 Khz.

Will write more about our trip to London and DARC history next month.

I will be going to the Dayton Hamvention in May for the four days from May 13 – 17. If You are planning to be there write to me at K4IWL@ARRL.NET so we can hookup for an eyeball QSO. If you've never gone, it is an awesome event. You will meet hams from over 30 countries and walk the largest outdoor flea market that you've ever seen. Go to the website for more information:

www.hamvention.org

73 es gud wishes to all,
Len, K4IWL

Minutes of the DARC Board Meeting of 7 April 2009

Present

President	Randy KE5JIT
Vice-President	David KD5RYM
Treasurer	Bob KE5PHX
Secretary	Scott KE5DKV
Director 1	Karl KE5AVE
Director 2	Herman KE5HYW
Director 3	James N5BKL
Director 4/Newsletter Editor	Tom KE5ICX
Director 6	Scott N1SAC
Technical Officer	Bernie N5BP

Absent

Director 5/PSO	Kevin W5DJK
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Guests

Dave	KD5IZF
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The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:02 p.m. at the Brookhaven Church on Marsh and Valley View.

Introductions of board members took place by name and call sign for recorded purposes.

The board meeting minutes for March were approved.

Dave KD5RYM reported that the bylaw update committee is still in discussion concerning any possible modification of the DARC bylaws.

The Treasurer's Report as of March 7, 2009

Checking = \$14,450.45
Whit Griffith Fund = \$3,834.34
Pay Pal = \$74.85
Pledges = \$200.00
Donations: Tom Thumb = \$50.57
General Electric = \$2,031.62

Expense for March = \$727.38

Total Expense for 2009 = \$1,456.21

DARC Technical Officer Bernie K5BP reported that he had resolved some software and firmware issues within the program at the 2 meter repeater site. It is suspected that the transmitter has gone out on the 220 repeater and it is not operational at this time. The 440 repeater is up and running.

DARC Newsletter Editor and "Echolink Guru" Tom KE5ICX reported that the merge of Echolink with the DARC 146.88 meeting on the air was a success and also numerous hams from the Paris Texas area checked into the meeting via Echolink. The board gave approval to continue to keep Echolink in connection with the Meeting on the Air (MOTA).

The W5FC website had 42,000 hits last month. The issue of the "404 ERROR" when attempting to navigate to different areas is in the process of being resolved.

The board gave approval to put the membership applications back on the DARC website with a disclaimer stating something to the fact that if an applicant is not accepted into the club then any membership fee will be consider as a donation to the DARC.

Randy will approach Dallas County REACT requesting that they supply funds for the renting of the port-a-potties for this year's Field Day.

The board approved \$300.00 for the purchase of food and beverages for the Field Day event.

The current membership roster stands at 134 members.

The board gave approval for the trailer to be taken to two locations near the end of April for the purpose of displaying the trailer and showing what the club has accomplished in putting our new mobile communications center together.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

From the Editor

by Tom General KE5ICX@ARRL.NET

One of the things I always felt was important to providing information to other DARC members is to give multiple “platforms” by which members can “access” information about the club. Back in the 1990's the first method was via webpages and creation of the w5fc.org website.

When the World Wide Web became part of our regular, everyday lives, it only made sense the club pursue this alternate method of communication.

So with that has come Ustream, Echolink, and Archive and a number of platforms where people can participate in DARC events and activities, far beyond the reach of our repeater and offering up “world wide” access.

There's been a lot of discussion about how the Internet is “taking the place” of amateur radio. I think it's a technology you cannot ignore. And many of the brightest find careers working in the connected computer world. In fact MANY of the newer DARC hams are involved in the industry, or telecom, or IT departments. As such they already use this technology extensively.

Many DARC hams of course, are early adopters of this technology. There's hardly a person who shows up at DARC events who doesn't carry a “smart phone” or are engaged in text chat, twittering (yeah, you knew I'd include that), or otherwise connected to someone/something on the Internet. So it's a natural extension for present (and future) hams to “connect” via the Internet.

One of the best things about these technologies is they come “free”. While I know there's no such thing as a “free lunch” the good news is advertisers pick up support of various web sites. If a small ad appears in the webpage, then that's better than spending \$100 a month

The Archive.org group relies on donations from its user base and I would highly recommend you browse the extensive collection of archived material. I've spent hours perusing the volumous online resources. I think that's what keeps people coming back and donating to the site.

I will post direct links to the DARC MOTA both on the website and in the newsletter so others can enjoy our recorded nets.

I'm curious as to your ideas and comments concerning this on line content. Please feel free to contact me at my email address.

Tom KE5ICX@ARRL.NET

Regular Meeting of 7 April 2009

Submitted by Scott Drummond/KE5DKV

The meeting was called to order by the President of the club Randy Patterson KE5JIT at 7:05 PM at the Brookhaven Church, at the corner of Marsh Ln. and Valley View.

27 members/visitors were present.

Tom KE5ICX led the club members and guest in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Club members and guest were introduced by name and call sign.

The final status on the Van is that it had netted \$242.40 at the local scrap yard.

This evening's program was "Old Timers" night. The members had the privilege of hearing from three of the club members who have been in amateur radio for 50+ years.

Mont O'Leary K0YCN = 51 years.

John Cotton K5SN = 50 years.

Mike Goidl K5BJI = 48 years.

The Old Timers spoke of how the hobby was when they had first entered into radio compared to amateur radio in the present day.

The meeting minutes for the month of March were accepted by the attending members.

The President of the DARC Randy Patterson presented The Whit and Anne Griffith Community Service Award to Scott Drummond KE5DKV.

Skip Bynum WD5AAZ presented the meeting with a few words of wisdom and gave an encouraging talk on how amateur radio operators should help introduce ham radio to the younger generation.

The dead line for renewing membership in the DARC is tonight. The cut off date was extended from March 31 until April 7. Anyone who has not renewed their membership will have their name dropped from the roster.

The DARC 146.88 repeater will continue to be available for the Dallas County/Races Nets.

Mike Yancey KM5Z has done a great job in putting together the new W5FC website. There are a few areas that are to be completed in the near future.

The Treasurer's Report as of March 7, 2009

Checking = \$14,450.45

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Total

Expense for 2009 = \$1,456.21

DARC Technical Officer Bernie K5BP reported that he had resolved some software and firmware issues within the program at the 2meter repeater site. The system is working now without any glitches and Bernie is pleased with the way the repeater is performing.

It has been requested that if possible the DARC provide 8 volunteers for the Sam's Club MS 150 Event to be held on Saturday and Sunday May 23 and 24.

It is time to start preparing for this years Field Day. It is the goal to have a minimal of at least 100 people to visit and sign in at the event this year.

The past few workouts on the trailer have been very productive. There are a few more details and small issue to be taken care of and then the trailer should be pretty well complete.

There were 4 donations of \$30.00 each for the purpose of purchasing 4 folding chairs for the trailer.

The door prize which was a Coleman camp stove donated by Wayne K5EL was auctioned and won by Mike G. K5BJI.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

May Events

Date	Event
May	

3	DARC Meeting on the Air, 7 PM 146.88 Repeater (Echolink W5FC-R)
3	Dallas County RACES Net, 8PM 146.88 Repeater
5	DARC Board Meeting, 8:30 PM Brookhaven Church (Basement)
17	DARC Meeting on the Air, 7 PM 146.88 Repeater (Echolink W5FC-R)
17	City of Dallas RACES Net, 8PM 146.88 Repeater
Satur days	DARC Trailer Construction. From 9AM – 5PM Arrive when you can – leave when you must! Contact us and help create the next chapter in the DARC! We need your expertise to “get the communications trailer on the road.” w5fc@arrl.net
Wed	Visit our friends via Echolink <i>The Paris Amateur Radio Net</i> Wednesday, 8PM, KC5OOS-R.
	<i>Red/Italic denotes a CHANGE in scheduling from last month. Please mark your calendar now!</i>

QRT

Can you answer this question from the Extra Class question pool?

E8B09: How are the pulses of a pulse modulated signal usually transmitted?

- A. A pulse of relatively short duration is sent; a relatively long period of time separates each pulse.
- B. A pulse of relatively long duration is sent; a relatively short period of time separates each pulse.

C. A group of short pulses are sent in relatively short period of time; a relatively long period of time separates each group.

D. A group of short pulses are sent in relatively long period of time; a relatively short period of time separates each group.

Answer is: B.

Read more about it at:

<http://www.tech-faq.com/pulse-code-modulation.shtml>



On the Internet (All DARC Links):



PicasaWeb

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ke5icx>

Visit Picasweb for the many DARC pictures we've taken over the past few years. Complements of Google, the Internet search engine giant, registered members (it's free!) can place up to 1 GB of pictures on their website. So far the current collection of pictures isn't

even close to approaching that number, and who's to say you can open a second account and get a second gig of pictures? Don't answer that question!

Ustream.tv



Ustream is another free website. We've been archiving the DARC MOTA meetings on this site. It is also free, and up to last month, was running perfectly. Unfortunately our last MOTA got "lost" - I don't know where it went. We looked under the table but it wasn't there. So we'll just have to see.

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/darc-dallas-amateur-radio-club-meeting-on-the-air>



The Internet Archive

<http://www.archive.org>

Our last site is free as well. Archive.org allows public domain articles, movies, and sound files to be posted on their site. This is a relatively new addition to the DARC Internet Initiative. This newsletter and the website will contain

complete MOTA audio, just in case you miss the Meetings on the Air!

Ed. Note – The first posted net will be the May 3rd, MOTA. However, in the meantime, you can listen to the KC5OOS Paris Net (see the previous article) to get a taste of how the new nets will sound!

<http://www.archive.org/details/TheParisTxWednesdayNightKc5oos>